ISASC

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUE SCALE COLLECTORS

Chairman's Newsletter

Number 36. October, 1987.

WE'RE STILL GROWING, GOING STRONG.

These days our society is enjoying a real, genuine membership boom. At this writing, the North American Chapter roster is at an all-time high of 232, and hardly a month goes by without several new members joining up, testimony to which is our directory supplement #2, enclosed. As to our European Chapter, its membership count is close to 100 and holding steady. It may take some doing to find scales these days, but new members seem to be in plentiful supply worldwide.

"BOSTON IN 1988" THE WATCHWORD!

You heard it here first, and the event is now a decided definite. ISASC's conclave next year will be from Friday, May 6, to Sunday, May 8, and our headquarters hotel will be the Royal Sonesta in Cambridge, a lovely community in greater Boston just ten minutes from the city's airport and downtown district. It took some doing to find the right hotel in the right place on the right date at the right rate (Boston is busy in May), but we did it. Now we're moving ahead full speed, and Riva-Jill and Steve Ginsberg, our convention co-chairpersons, undoubtedly are meeting this very minute with their committee to get the word out and plans underway. By mid-January (and possibly earlier), you should be receiving complete information and a registration form. Meanwhile, circle the dates on your '88 calendar and do consider making the weekend the focal point of an extended vacation. New England is beautiful in May, the environs of

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Boston are replete with history, and -- as an added incentive -- during the week following our convention, Brimfield, one of the largest and most popular antique fairs in the entire country, will be taking place. Need we say more?

AND ON THE SUBJECT OF CONVENTIONS.

With some regret we learned of the cancellation of the European Chapter's October convention in Cologne, due to a sparse response. However, a larger reason exists to explain this happenstance, with which we'd like to acquaint our North American Chapter members.

As some of you may know, for some years there have been weights and measures societies in both Holland and France, and this year a similar society was founded in Germany. It's raison d'etre was to serve German collectors who are not conversant in English and, consequently, find EQM of little value, and also to enable them to pursue their metrological interests from their own scientific and historical perspective. Even though this new society is in its infancy, it seems to be flourishing, and we enthusiastically endorse its birth, believing as we do in the idea that scale collectors, wherever they are, should join forces under whatever banner they choose.

The upshot of all this is the likelihood that in the future the various collectors' societies on the continent -- German, Dutch, French -- will hold their own conventions separately or in concert, and ISASC's European Chapter will continue to hold its semi-annual UK convention, which has turned out to be an extremely popular event. As we see it, ISASC's "continental" members will continue be active in our society, will continue to attend our UK conventions as they so choose, and, additionally, will participate in conventions sponsored by other societies in which they hold membership. Intermingling of this sort is a ready reflection of the camaraderie that is ISASC's hallmark, and can only contribute to our good and the good of other fellow societies.

JAN MACHO, FRONT AND CENTER.

A year or so ago, member Bob Miller resigned as ISASC's treasurer (after having served us exceptionally well for several years), and more recently resigned as a director. Resulting from our search for a replacement, and in accordance with our bylaws, your directors unanimously elected Jan Macho to fill Bob Miller's term until its December 31, 1988, expiration date. Jan has been one of our most active members and earlier this year served as chairman of our highly successful convention in California. When approached with the invitation to serve ISASC, Jan indicated a keen interest and willingness, and that was enough for us.

THE INEVITABLE COMES TO PASS.

Every so often we take stock of our fiscal resources to make sure we're solvent and, more importantly, that we'll continue that way in the future. According to the latest projection by our estimable treasurer, Gary Batz, it appears that we'll be hard put in the immediate years ahead to keep a healthy bank balance, what with our operating costs increasing on a predictable basis. Consequently, your directors unanimously voted to increase ISASC dues to $40, effective this coming year. It's been four years since our dues were last increased, so the $5 increase, if you care to pro-rate it, comes to a mere $1.25 a year. Considering all that's happening around us to raise our cost of living, and considering the value one receives from ISASC membership, we don't think the $5 is a lot of money, and we're sure you'll agree with us.

AND ON THAT SELFSAME SUBJECT.

By the time you receive this Newsletter (or shortly thereafter), you'll have received your 1988 dues statement. Please pay it promptly. Our billing effort over the years has turned out to be an arduous chore, only because all too many members pay their dues all too belatedly. Remember, we're a volunteer organization, and we volunteers who assume

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the task of collecting dues ask only that you make our job in this respect tolerable. That means -- and I know I'm repeating myself -- please pay your dues promptly. (Note, also, that if your payment is made before December 31, 1987, you'll save yourself the $10.00 late payment charge.)

AND TO KEEP THINGS UP TO DATE...

We're enclosing a Directory Update form with your dues statement. If everything our current directory says about you (address, phone, description of collection) is up-to-date, do nothing with the form and do not return it to us. However, if you'd like to change your listing in our 1988 directory, note the changes on the form and return it to us (along with your dues payment).

MISSIVES FROM MEMBERS.

** Lew Weiss of Rydal, Pa., writes to tell us about his and spouse Ruth's summer travels. Their itinerary took them to St. Johnsbury, Vermont, home of the Fairbanks Scale Co., where they participated in an Elderhostel course dealing with the history of the township; Stratford-on-Avon in Canada, where they acquired three "very interesting" scales; and Waterloo, Ontario, where they visited the Seagram Museum and saw a number of scales on display, including an "old Irish barrel scale, Fairbanks barrel scale, Salter letter scale, chondrometer to measure moisture content of grain, and old French portable scale used to weigh grapes in vineyards." Sounds like a true scale collector's holiday.

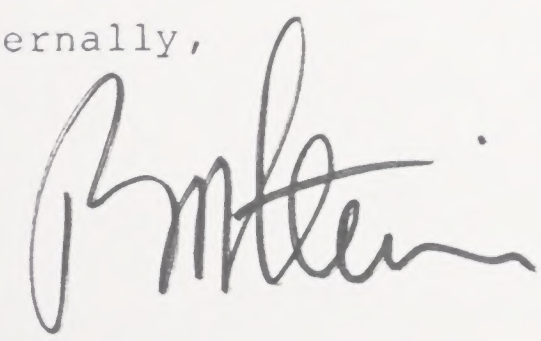
** Also from Lew was a clipping from the September 6, 1987, edition of the New York Times describing the then upcoming American Numismatic Society's fourth annual Coinage of the Americas Conference in New York City on September 26 and 27. According to the article, the event was to consist of three sessions, with the one titled, "The Medal in the 18th Century" to be chaired by our very own member Eric Newman, described as a "numismatic scholar and writer from St. Louis." Just another way of acknowledging the broad range of interests besides metrology that characterize a number of our members.

** On July 30, member Fritz Schmerl of Piedmont, Ca., wrote us to say, "This is to let you know how much Gretl and I enjoyed Anaheim in all aspects of the ISASC meeting, the fellowship, the program, and the superb way in which a meaty offering was organized. We hope to make it to Boston next year." Thank you, Fritz. Our conventions wouldn't be the same without you and Gretl.

SCRAPBOOK ITEM.

Several weeks ago a dealer friend sent us a copy of a magazine called Silver, one we'd never heard of and which seems to be devoted, as its name indicates, to silver objets d'art. Lo and behold, there on its cover, in living black and white, was a full-size photograph of a lovely sterling silver letter scale, and by chance, identical to one in our collection and several others we know of. The scale was depicted again, along with two other silver ones, on two inside pages which we've reproduced and enclosed with this newsletter. If your tastes run to collecting scales or anything else in the silver line, you would do well to take a subscription to this publication. It comes out six times a year, and the annual subscription cost is $18. The address to write to is Silver Magazine, Box 1243, Whittier, CA 90609.

AND, FINALLY...

Concurrent with this Newsletter being written on September 30, the Steins are busily making ready to leave Chicago on October 1 for a week's visit to London, to spend time with the Crawforths and other good friends, make their prescribed pilgrimage to Portobello, Bermondsey, Chelsea, and Camden Passage, take in several London plays and musicals, and otherwise enjoy themselves. We'll report on any noteworthy experiences in our next Newsletter and, until then, will take this occasion, albeit well before the end of 1987, to wish each of you a most healthy and happy 1988.

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